

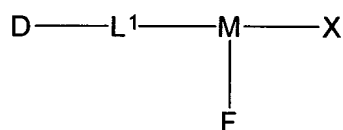
Amendments to the Abstract

Please add the following abstract on a separate sheet:

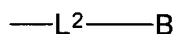
Abstract

Site-Specific Labelling of Proteins Using Acridone and Quinacridone Lifetime Dyes

Disclosed are compounds of formula:



in which D is a fluorescent dye selected from an acridone and a quinacridone dye; F comprises a target bonding group selected from a carboxylic acid thioester group and a 1,2-aminothiol group; M is a group adapted for attaching to F; X is selected from hydrogen or the group:



wherein B is an affinity tag; and L^1 and L^2 each independently comprise a group containing from 1 to 40 linked atoms selected from carbon atoms which may optionally include one or more groups selected from $-\text{NR}'-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-$ and phenylenyl groups, where R' is selected from hydrogen and $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$ alkyl. The invention also relates to methods that afford direct attachment of the acridone or quinacridone dye to either the N-terminus or C-terminus of a synthetic or recombinant peptide or protein, and their derivatives, in a site-specific manner, coupled with purification of the resultant labelled molecule.